

JUSTICE4DUKES

March 9, 2023

Testimony from Christopher L. Dukes concerning:

HB 6667 -OPPOSE and **HB 6816**– OPPOSE

The ***Justice4Dukes Coalition*** believes personal protection must be encouraged, not diminished, as our communities seek to maintain clear and equitable paths in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We suffer with those who are tired of senseless, unimaginable, and unacceptable gun violence in our communities and agree, the violence must stop! So does the blatant, continuous, and uncalled-for attacks on citizens who elect to exercise their Constitutional rights. Leaders are not supposed to mislead the public, under any circumstances. Yet, it appears to have become commonplace for CT leaders to naively or intentionally confuse evildoing with legal gun ownership. Somehow making the two concepts seem enharmonic. Making legal gun owners unfairly accountable for the evil acts of criminals. These mischaracterizations by those in power cannot be normalized in Connecticut.

Under Governor Jodi Rell, our State utilized extensive research to identify five (5) commonalities amongst mass-shooters. In every case, someone was determined to kill; perpetrating what is arguably the worst of all criminal offenses. Before us today are two pieces of legislation (**HB 6667** and **HB 6816**) which do not address the five commonalities nor saving lives from evildoers. Therefore, on behalf of the Justice4Dukes Coalition and fellow members of the CCDL, I emphatically OPPOSE both items, **HB 6667** and **HB 6816**.

